

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SPACE SCIENCE BOARD

March 13, 1962

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
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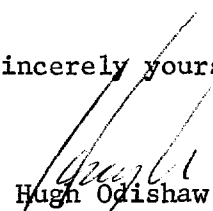
Dear Joshua:

I am writing at the request of the Executive Committee of the Space Science Board on the subject of your 5 March 1962 memorandum to the committee, "Policy on International Cooperation in Space."

Your memorandum was read to the committee and was discussed. The discussion was lively and interesting, and we regretted that you were not with us. There appeared to be general recognition of two points: first, there is a problem of the Board's role, for its primary sphere of competence is in science; while, second, fundamental political policy on the part of our government is at the heart of your recommendations. How best the Board can contribute to policy of this kind is not yet too clear.

However, the Board took the following action: aside from directing me to write to you along the above lines, the Board instructed me to make available your memorandum and this letter to the Foreign Secretary of the Academy and to Dr. Richard W. Porter. The committee felt that discussion among the three of you would be useful, and it hopes further to follow the topic. Dr. Porter is not only our delegate to COSPAR but has been recently appointed the Academy advisor to the U.S. delegation to the U.N. Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; Dr. Porter has been reasonably well briefed, and he and I had a discussion relating to the coming U.N. sessions, taking into account your recommendations. As you know, there are complexities to this situation, and Porter and I hope that we can explore the subject further with you and Harrison Brown.

Sincerely yours,


Hugh Odishaw
Executive Director

cc: Dr. L. V. Berkner
Dr. Harrison Brown
Dr. R. W. Porter

(P.S. I really would like to dig into this with you later.)